

Mota language

Mota is an Oceanic language spoken by about 750 people on Mota island, in the Banks Islands of Vanuatu.^[3]

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History

During the period 1840-1940, Mota was used as a missionary *lingua franca* throughout areas of Oceania included in the Melanesian Mission, an Anglican missionary agency.^[4] Mota was used on Norfolk Island, in religious education; on other islands with different vernacular languages, it served as the language of liturgical prayers, hymns, and some other religious purposes. Elizabeth Fairburn Colenso translated religious material into the language.^[4]

Robert Henry Codrington compiled the first dictionary of Mota (1896), and worked with George Sarawia and others to produce a large number of early publications in this language.

Phonology

Mota has 5 phonemic vowels, /i e a o u/.^[5]

	Front	Back
<u>Close</u>	i	u
<u>Close-mid</u>	e	o
<u>Open</u>	a	

Notes

- François (2012): 88).
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mota" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mota1237>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

Mota	
Native to	Vanuatu
Region	Mota island
Native speakers	750 (2012) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vanuatu<ul style="list-style-type: none">North Vanuatu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Torres–Banks<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mota
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	mtt
Glottolog	mota1237 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mota1237) ^[2]

3. Linguistic map of north Vanuatu, showing range of Mota (http://alex.francois.free.fr/AlexFrancois_Torba-languages_map.htm).
4. Transcribed by the Right Reverend Dr. Terry Brown (2007). "ELIZABETH COLENZO: Her work for the Melanesian Mission; by her eldest granddaughter Francis Edith Swabey 1956" (<http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/colenso1956.html>). Retrieved 5 December 2015.
5. François (2005:445, 460).

References

- Codrington, Robert H.; Palmer, Jim (1896), *A Dictionary of the Language of Mota, Sugarloaf Island, Banks' Islands, with a short grammar and index* (<https://archive.org/details/dictionaryoflang00codruoft>), London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
- François, Alexandre (2005), "Unraveling the history of the vowels of seventeen northern Vanuatu languages" (<https://www.academia.edu/1330221>), *Oceanic Linguistics*, **44** (2): 443–504, doi:10.1353/ol.2005.0034 (<https://doi.org/10.1353%2Fol.2005.0034>)
- François, Alexandre (2012), "The dynamics of linguistic diversity: Egalitarian multilingualism and power imbalance among northern Vanuatu languages" (https://anu.academia.edu/AlexFran%C3%A7ois/Papers/1525506/The_dynamics_of_linguistic_diversity_Egalitarian_multilingualism_and_power_imbalance_among_northern_Vanuatu_languages), *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, **2012** (214): 85–110, doi:10.1515/ijsl-2012-0022 (<https://doi.org/10.1515%2Fijsl-2012-0022>)

External links

- Portions of the Book of Common Prayer (<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Melanesia/Mota.html>) in Mota
- Texts in Mota (<http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/mota/>) from Project Canterbury
- Audio recordings in the Mota language (https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/corpus/list_rsc_en.php?lg=Mota), in open access, by A. François (source: *Pangloss Collection* of CNRS).
- Materials on Mota are included in the open access Arthur Capell collections (AC1 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC1>) and AC2 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC2>)) held by [Paradisec](#).

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